[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : He wants to speak on that very issue, so let him speak.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI BASU DEB ACHARIA : Sir, a Committee was formed by the Government of India. That Committee has also submitted its report long back, at least three-four months back, for its revival.

But the Government has yet to take a decision in regard to the revival of such an important drug manufacturing public Sector Undertaking. It is not only a company where thousands of workers are engaged but it is a company which was in the past engaged in the manufacture of essential and life-saving drugs. As there is no production for months together, some multinational companies have come and started manufacturing. They are selling the drugs at a very higher price. Now the poor people of our country are forced to buy essential drugs at a higher price because the production in IDPL had been stopped.

Sir, I demand that the Government should take immediate decision in regard to the revival of IDPL. The report submitted by the committee should be considered by the Government and immediate decision for the revival of this important drug manufacturing public Sector undertaking should be taken by the Government. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

SHRI SHATRUGHAN PRASAD SINGH (Balia) (Bihar): The employees of IDPL are facing starvation. Why the Government do not take a decision?

[English]

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : Sir, the Government should respond to this question. *...(Interruptions).*

SHRI SOMNATH CHATTERJEE (Bolpur) : The Members are highly agitated, and rightly if I may say so because this is not a question of routine matter of sick undertaking being raised. IDPL is such an undertaking which concerns the health of the people of this country. The prices of medicines are going beyond the reach of the ordinary people. Here is a company which was doing wonderful work and which can still be revived and can save the people of tnis country. The fact is that it has become sick and has been allowed to remain sick. That means, today the pharmaceutical Industry, the drug industry is being overtaken by the multinationals. This is a very important undertaking about which we can be proud of. It is allowed to languish for a long time. I think, every section of the House will join us, that this is a matter which should be given top priority and the Government must do everything to revive this. If there is any problem in whatever steps are to be taken, let them discuss with us. We have seen the earlier Prime Minister, Health Minister and so many people. This is a matter which should not be allowed to procrastinate. Therefore, I think that this is a unanimous demand of the House that immediate action should be taken and this important industry which is also for the future of this country is revived without delay. *...(Interruptions).*

[Translation]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You please sit down for a minute please let me put across my point.

...(Interruptions)

[English]

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : The Government should respond to this issue. This is a case concerning IDPL workers. *...(Interruptions).*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seat first.

...(Interruptions)

SHRI PRAMOTHES MUKHERJEE : I, with folded hands, appeal through you...

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : You already had your say. Please sit down.

This is a very important issue. I will request the Government to take immediate action in this matter. The whole House is concerned about it.

[Translation]

If all the members speak at a time, then how their speeches will go on record. I am giving opportunity to all.

...(Interruptions)

SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN (Indore) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I am raising an important issue which is related to the entire country. This incident has occurred earlier also when we imported wheat under P.L. 480, carrot-grass also came alongwith this consignment. The same thing is being repeated again. We have imported

one lakh tonnes of wheat from Australia and we have received Lolium-Rizidiam grass with this consignment. When the wheat would be distributed throughout the country then this grass will spread alonghwith this wheat in the entire country. The Government have not taken any action in this regard. Some of our Scientists have opined that the wheat should be separated through gravity separator machine before distribution. I would like to ask as to why this matter has not been taken up with the Australian Government? They have not taken any precautions to check up the mix-up of weeds alongwith the wheat while sending the consignment. When this question was raised in Rajya Sabha then it was replied that they are looking into this matter and it was also said that this would be supplied/distributed in non-wheat producing area so that this weed do not get mixed up with the remaining wheat. But this is, in a way, a ridiculous statement because we cannot check it in this way and if this weed gets acclimatised to the climatic conditions of this country and if this grass grows here then it can play havoc with the climate here.

Sir, I would just like to ask as to what steps have been taken by the Government in this regard and why the Australian Shipment had not been cancelled/sent back and whether the Government is ready to allow Australia to make India a dumping ground of such a hazardous/ poisonous grass or whether the Government will take up this matter with the Australian Government. Distribution/ supply of this wheat should be stopped. I would like that the Government should issue a statement in this regard because it would have effect on the health of the people of India. If this grass spreads then it will have its impact on our wheat production. We have not forgotten how the carrot grass has played havoc. Therefor, I would like that the Government should ponder over this issue seriously.

PROF. RITA VERMA (Dhanbad) : The Minister's statement should come forth in this regard. *...(Interruptions)*

[Translation]

DR. K.P. RAMALINGAM (Tiruchengode) : Mr. Deputy-Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw the attention of the House towards the recent killing on Indian fisherman by the Sri Lankan Air Force in the Indian Ocean. The Sri Lankan Air Force Helicopter has fired on the boats of Indian fishermen on 17th July and earlier to that, on 14th July also it fired on the Indian fishermen. From 1983 to 1997 about 250 Indian fishermen have been killed by the Sri Lankan Army, Navy and Air Force. In the Arabian Sea, off the Gujarat coast, even the Pakistan Government is not indulging in this kind of atrocity on our fishermen and no such killing of our fishermen had taken place there. The Sri Lankan Navy is repeatedly killing our fishermen in the Indian Ocean. Yesterday the Sri Lankan Government has denied that there were no such incidents of firing on the Indian fishermen. But it is not correct.

The Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu has already written a letter to the Prime Minister on this issue and personally insisted that immediate action should be taken in this matter. Many representations have also been made to the Central Government, but the Central Government is not taking any action in this matter. The Government must take a serious view on this issue because many fishermen are killed in such incidents. The Home Minister should respond to this matter as to what the Central Government is doing in this matter. I also request that the Government of India should cut off its relationship with the Government of Sri Lanka. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI TIRUCHI SIVA (Pudukkottai) : Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, this is a very serious issue and the Government must respond to it now. *...(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Please take your seat now.

...(Interruptions)

[Translation]

SHRI JAI PRAKASH (Hissar) : If we do not raise our point here in the Lok Sabha then where should we go to raise it. 70 murders have been committed in Haryana State during the last three months. *...(Interruptions)**

[English]

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : Nothing will go on record.

*...(Interruptions)**

[Translation]

SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE (Bilaspur) : Hon. Mr. Deputy Speaker, Sir, I would like to draw your attention towards the situation arisen due to shortage of chemical fertilizers and the resultant sale of fertilizers at more than the market prices and towards checking black marketing. *...(Interruptions)*

SHRI VINAY KATIYAR (Faizabad) : You please allow the Minister to give the reply....*(Interruptions)*

MR. DEPUTY SPEAKER : When did I stop the Minister from replying? If he wants to reply during Zero

*Not Recorded.